



Ballard County Schools

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ED ADAMI, SUPERINTENDENT

September 13, 2011

Kentucky Board of Education
Capital Plaza Tower
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

Ballard County Schools Request of Waiver to 704 KAR 3:285, Section 9

Ballard County Schools is requesting a waiver to 704 KAR 3:285, Section 9 pursuant to our conversations with KDE and as permitted by KRS 156.160, Section 2, Subsections a-c.

Ballard County was awarded \$20,399 for Gifted and Talented Education for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. 704 KAR 3:285, Section 9 requires that districts use 75% of GT awards to fund certified GT personnel in the district. In years past, the 75% (\$15,299.25) of the GT award was used to partially fund one position who serviced students at our one elementary school; in her final years, that \$15,299.25 of GT funding provide about 30% of the GT instructor's salary. Our middle school and high school served GT students through differentiated classroom instruction and the occasional content-specific activity.

That teacher, while effective in her role for many years, retired last year. We are now faced with either using that money to partially fund another position, or to partially fund an existing teacher with appropriate certification. With reduction in district funding this year, we would like to have other options on spending our GT money that do not require us to spend this money on personnel, but that will give us the freedom to provide GT services in other ways. This is the basis of our waiver.

We feel that using the entire \$20,399 to spend on students will allow us to better meet the needs of our GT students. Our rural location prohibits many students from access to museums, art galleries, plays, science exhibits, and the like. Even if these programs were available, our 58% Free and Reduce Lunch numbers for the district would limit parents' financial ability to access those opportunities. Using the entire GT award towards these activities will have a more profound effect on the GT students in our district than a partial personnel allocation. We foresee using the entire award not only to take our students outside the district, but also to bring in quality presentations geared toward meeting the specific needs of all our GT students.

The district could very easily use the \$15,299.25 of our award to help fund an existing position for a teacher with GT certification. That would help our General Fund and help cover some of the funding we have lost, but would leave only about \$5,100 to serve our students. However, we hope the Kentucky Board of Education will see that this waiver is a request made in the best interest of the GT students of Ballard County Schools. If this waiver is granted, we would have the freedom to use 100% of our GT award to meet the needs of our students using existing personnel and providing many more opportunities than previously allowed.

Sincerely,
Edward A. Adami, Superintendent